

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to claim 1 are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 claim under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Bunch in view of Sakamaki, stating that Bunch discloses a gear having a plurality of teeth formed around an outer periphery thereof with each of said plurality of teeth having front and rear facing surfaces and a top, wherein at least one groove 1 is defined along an outer surface of each tooth of said teeth to divide said teeth in a widthwise direction of said teeth, said at least one groove being provided in said front and rear facing surfaces and said top of each of said plurality of teeth and in a valley provided between each successive ones of said plurality of teeth, but does not disclose that the gear is made of resin with a substantially cylindrical rim, a boss formed about a rotation center of said rim and a web connecting said boss and said rim; Sakamaki discloses a gear made of resin; and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Bunch in view of the teachings of Sakamaki.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to first point out that the structure of Bunch as shown in Figs. 1 and 3 is substantially different from the structure of Applicant's gear as shown in Figs. 4-8. In particular, in Sakamaki the groove 14 entirely divides the gear teeth 13 in half and effectively creates two gears on the same boss with a resilient member 15 provided in the bottom of the groove 14. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the groove 14 of Bunch is not provided in the outer peripheral surface of each of the front and rear facing surfaces and the top of each of the plurality of teeth.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the construction of Bunch and Applicant's invention is dictated by their function. In particular, the groove dividing the teeth 13 in Bunch is provided so that a resilient means can be placed in the bottom of the groove to contact the distal tips of the tooth of the other gear during rotation of the gears and to facilitate the position of the two gears to minimize backlash and wear on the teeth of the two gears (see col. 1, lines 64-col. 2, line 2). In contrast thereto, the structure of Applicant's invention is provided so that the grooves are defined along the outer surfaces of the teeth so that a lubricant such as a grease can be effectively supplied to the toothed flanks (see page 4, last six lines thereof of Applicant's application).

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Bunch does not disclose that which the Examiner suggests it does and while Sakamaki may show a gear made of resin, making Bunch from resin will not make or create Applicant's invention as claimed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits claims 1, 3 and 4 are not obvious over Bunch in view of Sakamaki.

Applicant respectfully and retroactively requests a one month extension of time to respond to the Office Action. Please charge Deposit Account No. 11-1445 in the sum of \$110.00 as the fee.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

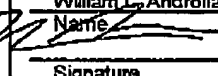
Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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